

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 CCO-00

INRE-00 DRC-01 /159 W

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P R 291411Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 718

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

:AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 5185

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 9638

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR, PINT, IS

SUBJECT : LABOR PARTY LEADERSHIP READY FOR PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: TEL AVIV 9619

1. IN NINE-HOUR WORKING SESSION PRECEDING NOVEMBER 28 CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING, KEY LABOR PARTY LEADERSHIP REPRESENTING ALL ELEMENTS OF PARTY REACHED CONSENSUS ON THE PRINCIPLES WHICH WILL CONSTITUTE BASIS OF LABOR ALIGNMENT PLATFORM FOR ELECTIONS (REFTEL).

2. PARTICIPANTS IN THIS MEETING WERE SAPRI, EBAN, BAR-LEV, RABINOWITZ, ALMOGI, YADLIN AND BARAM (ALL FROM MAPAI), DAYAN, PERES AND YACOBI (FROM RAFI), ALLON, GALILI, CARMEL AND GEBELBER (FROM AHDUT AVODAH). MRS MEIR JOINED GROUP IN LATE AFTERNOON AT FINAL STAGE OF DRAFTING.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT AGREEMENT OF ALL THESE KEY FIGURES TO FOURTEEN POINTS VIRTUALLY GUARANTEES THAT IT WILL BECOME LABOR
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ALIGNMENT ELECTION PLATFORM AND COULD FORM BASIS OF GOI POSITION

AT OPENING OF PEACE CONFERENCE.

4. WHATEVER INTERNAL DIFFERENCES MAY REMAIN, PARTY LEADERSHIP HAS PUT ITSELF ON RECORD AS MAKING PEACE ITS CENTRAL OBJECTIVE AND DECLARING ITS WILLINGNESS TO ENTER INTO PEACE AGREEMENT BASED ON TERRITORIAL COMPROMISE.

5. LABOR ALIGNMENT CENTRAL COMMITTEE ALSO TOOK TWO KEY DECISIONS LAST EVENING BY OVERWHELMING MAJORITY: TO GO TO ELECTION AS SCHEDULED DEC. 31 AND NOT TO REOPEN ITS KNESSET CANDIDATURE LIST. AS UNHAPPY AS SOME WITHIN PARTY MAY BE, THESE DECISIONS PRECLUDE SAVAGE INTERNAL STRUGGLE IN PRE-ELECTION PERIOD AND ARE A FURTHER EARNEST OF A CLOSING OF THE RANKS FOR THE SAKE OF NEXT MONTH'S PEACE CONFERENCE.

6. LABOR PARTY HAS NOW TAKEN IMPORTANT STEP TO PRESENT UNITED IMAGE TO ELECTORATE AS PARTY OF PEACE, AND SHOW ITS ABILITY TO LEAD COUNTRY INTO PEACE CONFERENCE. LEADERSHIP, OPERATING UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE GENERATED BOTH BY INTERNAL TENSIONS AND CRITICISM FROM OUTSIDE, HAS SHOWN ONCE AGAIN ITS FLEXIBILITY AND APPARENT ABILITY TO CLOSE RANKS IN PERIOD OF CRISIS.

7. THE COMPROMISE DOCUMENT SUGGESTS THAT POSITION OF DAYAN, GALILI AND HAWKS WITHIN LABOR PARTY IN WAKE OF OCTOBER WAR, IN OUR JUDGMENT, HAS BEEN WEAKENED WHILE THAT OF MODERATES HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED. HOWEVER, COMPROMISE DOCUMENT HAMMERED OUT YESTERDAY INVOLVES SOME INTENTIONAL BLURRING OF POSITIONS TO ALLOW EACH SIDE TO CLAIM IT HAS NOT MADE ANY MAJOR CONCESSIONS. THUS, WHETHER THERE HAS BEEN SUFFICIENT SHIFT WITHIN LABOR PARTY TO AFFECT MRS MEIR'S PERSONAL INCLINATION TO TAKE HARD LINE ON ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUES REMAINS TO BE SEEN. WITH THIS CAVEAT, WE BELIEVE THAT FOURTEEN POINTS REPRESENT HOPEFUL SIGN OF NEW GOI FLEXIBILITY, UNITY, AND SINCERITY OF INTENT TO MAKE GENUINE CONTRIBUTION TO PEACEMAKING EFFORT WHICH LIES AHEAD.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LINE, POLITICAL PARTIES, PARTY FACTIONS, MEETINGS, PEACE PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TELAV09638
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973114/aaaaacog.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TEL AVIV 9619
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02-Jan-2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <16-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: : LABOR PARTY LEADERSHIP READY FOR PEACE NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005